

[Narrator] Welcome to the Health Options Program. If you're turning 65 soon, you've probably received a lot of mail about Medicare. What are your choices? You're eligible to enroll in Original Medicare when you turn age 65. For most people, enrollment is automatic. You can choose a Medicare Supplement plan, which is an add-on to Original Medicare, or you can choose a Medicare Advantage plan, which is an alternative to Original Medicare. Let's take a closer look at each option. If you choose Original Medicare, you'll have basic hospital and medical coverage anywhere in the US, as long as you use a provider that accepts Medicare. Original Medicare pays a portion of the cost, and you pay the rest, which can include inpatient and outpatient deductibles, coinsurance, and copays. To avoid some or all of the costs of Original Medicare, you can purchase additional coverage. Many people choose to purchase a Medicare Supplement plan, also known as a Medigap plan, to avoid the out-of-pocket costs that could come with Original Medicare. You still have Original Medicare, but your Supplement plan pays all or a portion of the deductibles and coinsurance. Plus, a Medicare Supplement may provide coverage if you travel outside the United States, and may provide ongoing coverage if you exhaust certain Medicare benefits. If you choose a Medicare Supplement plan, the Health Options Program has two options. The first, the HOP Medical Plan, pays many of the Original Medicare deductibles and coinsurance. It also pays for 365 additional hospital days if your Medicare coverage is exhausted. When you visit a doctor, all you pay is a nominal copay. The HOP Medical Plan pays your deductible and coinsurance. Plus, there's an added wellness benefit, SilverSneakers, at no additional cost. The second Medicare Supplement plan, the Value Medical Plan, is for retirees who want a low monthly premium and are willing to pay more out-of-pocket when obtaining services, and are not concerned about exhausting Medicare benefits. It is designed to provide financial protection in the event of unexpected high-cost hospital and medical expenses. If you enroll in the HOP Medical Plan or the Value Medical Plan, you can also buy other types of coverage through the Health Options Program, including Medicare prescription drug coverage, and dental and vision coverage. Prescription drug coverage is also available if you don't enroll in a medical plan. You generally need to enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage when you first become eligible to avoid a late enrollment penalty. Your third option is a Medicare Advantage plan, which many members select as an alternative to Original Medicare. These plans are required to provide all the same benefits as Original Medicare, and many include additional benefits like vision or dental coverage. In some ways, Medicare Advantage plans can be very different from Original Medicare. For example, you may pay lower copays or deductibles if you use providers and facilities within their network. So before you make a decision, be sure to assess all your health care needs and providers. If you want a Medicare Advantage plan instead of Original Medicare, you can get one through the Health Options Program. Unlike Original Medicare and Medicare Supplement plans, Medicare Advantage plans are local or regional. That means you have to choose a plan that's offered where you live. Costs and coverage vary from plan to plan. All Medicare Advantage plans in the Health Options Program include prescription drug coverage, and many have benefits like vision, dental, and fitness programs, but the additional coverage is not a la carte. In other words, if you choose a Medicare Advantage plan, you'll get whatever coverage comes with it. One of the greatest advantages of the Health Options Program is Premium Assistance. If you enroll in any medical plan through the Health Options Program, both Medicare Supplement and Medicare Advantage, and you're eligible for Premium Assistance based on past employment, you'll receive a special financial incentive of up to a \$100 reduction each month for your premium expense. Over the course of your lifetime, on average, that's a potential savings of \$24,000 or more. You'll miss out on Premium Assistance if you sign up for health insurance outside the Health Options Program. This was a brief overview. We encourage you to find out more about the many benefits of the Health Options Program, including coverage for spouses and dependents, and non-Medicare-eligible coverage by reading the materials on hopbenefits.com. Call the HOP Administration Unit to ask questions and learn more about your coverage options.